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Wilmer Cutler & Pickering Leads Winning Legal Team in Supreme Court's Sweeping Decision to Uphold McCain-Feingold Campaign Finance Reform

Washington, D.C. December 11, 2003 –The Supreme Court yesterday resoundingly upheld the core provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (the “McCain-Feingold campaign finance reform law”). Justices Stevens and O'Connor, joined by Justices Breyer, Ginsburg and Souter, upheld the provisions closing both the “soft money” and the “sham issue ad” loop holes that had led to widespread campaign finance abuses. The Chief Justice and Justice Kennedy joined the majority in upholding the bar on soft money fundraising by federal candidates and officeholders.

Wilmer Cutler & Pickering, led by Roger Witten, Seth Waxman, and Randy Moss, acted as lead counsel on the case for the sponsors of the legislation, Senators McCain, Feingold, Snowe, and Jeffords and Congressmen Shays and Meehan.

“The Supreme Court has issued an historic, sweeping, unequivocal decision affirming the constitutionality of the major parts of the McCain-Feingold bipartisan campaign finance reform law,” said Roger Witten, a senior WCP litigation partner. “This will put an end to the kind of widespread big money practices – ‘soft money’ and ‘sham issue ads’ that have turned citizens off and threatened the vitality of our democracy. The country and its citizens are the big winners, and our firm is proud to have played such an important role in this historic decision.”

“This is a great day for our law firm,” said WCP Chairman William J. Perlstein. “It is a fitting culmination of a year in which we have had major roles in two of the significant cases decided by the Supreme Court -- the *Michigan* case and the campaign finance case. The members of the McCain-Feingold team put their hearts, souls, and very long hours into defending the constitutionality of the law. We are understandably thrilled at the result.”

Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering is an international law firm with offices in Washington, D.C., New York, Baltimore, Northern Virginia, London, Brussels, and Berlin. The firm has more than 500 lawyers engaged in a broad practice spanning the full range of corporate matters, regulatory work, complex civil and criminal litigation, cross-border transactions, and international arbitration.

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